

Remarks

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors noted during a review of the file. No new matter has been added, and no amendment was made for any reason related to patentability.

Conclusion

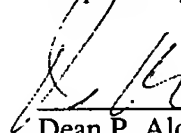
Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application. As such, the issue fee is enclosed. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney using the information provided below.

Please charge any fees that may be required for this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Furthermore, should an extension of time be required, please grant any extension of time which may be required to make this Amendment timely, and please charge any fee for such an extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Dean Alderucci at telephone number (203) 461-7337 or via electronic mail at alderucci@walkerdigital.com.

May 9, 2002
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Marked-up Version

Please **REPLACE** the last paragraph on page 4 which continues on page 5, with the following:

In another example, a supervisor may monitor when a telecommuting employee or consultant is working. For instance, the employee or consultant enters a predetermined code into monitored client telephone 202 when arriving at work. Monitored client telephone 202 sends the code to central server 204. Central server 204 searches a DTMF code database 340, as shown in FIG. 7B, retrieving the status corresponding to the code. Once retrieved, central server 204 sends the status to monitoring client telephone 206. The status allows the supervisor to know when to contact the employee or consultant. Alternatively, this embodiment of the invention may provide the supervisor with additional information. For example, accounting and billing processes may calculate the total number of hours the employee worked. The status may also affect the billing rate for the called party. For example, calling a consultant while her status is "unavailable" may result in a higher charge (e.g., a higher hourly billing rate) for that called [caked] time. A billing program may obtain such information as total time with a certain status (e.g., a status of "working") and/or the total time on the phone with a particular status (e.g., "lunchtime") and / or the applicable billing rate or other fee structure. Such a billing program could then generate an appropriate bill based thereon, and output a bill in printed, electronic file, email, fax or other forms. Those skilled in the art will recognize that these examples are provided purely for illustrative purposes and should not be understood to limit the breadth of the invention.

Please **REPLACE** the first complete paragraph on page 5 with the following:

Status information may also be automatically determined by client telephone 202, central server 204, a monitoring client telephone, or any combination of the foregoing whether cooperating or not. For example, the location or approximate location of a phone (e.g., a cellular phone with GPS capability, cellular phones with other location abilities, calculating the Doppler effect of a signal received from a cellular phone) may be ascertained by the central server 204 by, e.g., receiving a signal from the cellular phone that indicates the location or approximate location of the cell phone. Alternatively, the phone may broadcast a signal, which is received by a receiver. The strength and / or time of reception of the signal may allow the central server to determine the distance of the phone from the receiver. The mere fact that a signal is received may also indicate the location of the phone. In certain embodiments [embodiment], a low strength receiver that receives a signal, or a receiver that receives a signal from a low power transmitter, may indicate that the transmitter is within a certain area. For example, a base unit may be equipped to receive a signal from a handset unit only if the handset is within one hundred feet of the base. In another example, a base unit may readily determine when the handset is physically plugged into the base.

Please **REPLACE** the first complete paragraph on page 7 with the following:

Input device 405 may comprise a keyboard comprising a plurality of DTMF coded buttons. Alternatively or in addition, input device 405 may comprise a means for receiving other types of input. For example, input device 405 may comprise a GPS receiver for receiving information from a global positioning system. Such a GPS receiver typically receives broadcast signals that allow it to determine latitude, longitude, altitude, and time. Similarly, input device 405 may comprise a receiver that receives various wireless signals such as radio signals or infrared signals. Such receivers may be capable of receiving signals transmitted by cell phones, appliance remote controls such as [a s] television remote controls, remote car lock actuators, remote garage door openers, PDAs, and other devices.

Please **REPLACE** the last paragraph on page 19 with the following:

In some embodiments, certain parties may be allowed to always get through a block. For example, it may be desirable for the monitored party to always permit a spouse or [and] parent to circumvent a block. In always granting such parties access, their phones could be always granted access to the monitored party (e.g., by receiving an identifying signal (e.g., ANI, SPID) from such phone and comparing that signal with a list of authorized phones), or those parties could be provided with special access codes. Upon calling the monitored party when a block is in effect, the party would enter the access code and be granted access by allowing the [there] call to get through.

Please **REPLACE** the fifth paragraph on page 27 with the following:

A status may indicate whether the monitored party wants to [top] receive calls, or when the monitored party would like to receive calls. Such a capability may be extended only to certain kinds of calls. For example, the monitored party may desire to receive a call from customer service, or a call indicating a desired weather report or news report.